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WRITERS INSPIRED BY ENGLISH LAKES

Prof. F. M. Tisdell in As-
sembly Lecture Told of
Poets, Haunts.

VIEWS OF REGION SHOWN

Here Wordsworth, Coleridge
and DeQuincey Dreamed
and Wrote.

The delicate, almost fairyland beauty of the English lake district, the place remembered by those who have been there as the "Garden Spot of England," becomes of especial interest when we find that to this environment so many of the English poets owed their inspiration.

A lecture on this subject was recently given before the University Assembly by Prof. F. M. Tisdell. Professor Tisdell has spent considerable time in haunts of the so-called "Lake Poets." While there he procured a set of stereopticon views which he used in illustration of his lecture. These views deal with the lakes and the homes of the authors, and are colored so perfectly, according to Professor Tisdell, that when he looks at them he almost feels himself back there again.

"Few places, certainly none in the British Isles," said he, "have a greater interest for lovers of nature and literature than the lake and mountain district of Westmoreland and Cumberland. Here Wordsworth was born, and with the exception of his college life at Cambridge, five troubled years in London and one or two with Coleridge at Nether Stow, he spent his entire life of eighty years in this region, gathering from the quiet lakes and mountains that poise of mind and that serenity of spirit which were his peculiar gifts to the nineteenth century."

Many Writers Lived There.

It was here, he said, that Coleridge and DeQuincey dreamed and wrote. Here also lived Southey, John Ruskin, Matthew Arnold and Harriet Martineau.

"This was the only place on earth that could draw Charles Lamb from his beloved London. Scott and Tennyson were both familiar with the region. Shelley dwelt here for a time. These are only a few of the great literary leaders whose names are associated with this place."

The reasons why men of literature, both poets and prose writers, were attracted to this region needed little explanation when there was cast on the screen a view of Lake Windermere with its soft, quiet waters.

"Perhaps," said Professor Tisdell, "this quiet, peaceful beauty is surpassed by four or five miles of scenery in the Trossack mountains in Scotland. The English scenery, lacks perhaps the wild witchery of the Scotch. However, for continued charm and natural beauty, the Scotch district can not compare to the unfolding miles of gloriousness that the lake district presents."

English Mountains.

"The English mountains," he said, "have a less austere sublimity; but as Wordsworth says, they steal upon you with a sense of elevated thoughts. Sympathy rather than aloofness is the keynote of their charm. And between them, best of all lie the picturesque lakes of Windermere, Conistone, Grasmere, Rydal Water, Derwent Water and many others hardly less renowned for their beauty, hardly less famous in story and song."

"On an eminence to the east of Windermere was Elleray, the home of John Wilson, professor and critic, a somewhat intolerant critic of Blackwoods Magazine, a kind of Roosevelt of the country side, a sworn foe of all molly-coddles, fond of every stimulating thing from tragic poetry to cock fights and whisky punch. Here in 1825 Wilson entertained Sir Walter Scott, at that time perhaps the most widely known literary man in the British Isles."

Matthew Arnold Different.

"At the upper end of Windermere, situated somewhat back from the shore of the lake on the banks of the river Rothay, was Fox Howe, the home of critic of another generation, Matthew Arnold—a man very different in temperament from Wilson. Arnold was the foe of all intolerance and narrow-mindedness, the great apostle of culture and refinement, a prince of mollycoddles in the best sense a man of reflection rather than of action. Such men count for quite as much in the end as the more vaunted, because more theatrical, 'men of red blood.' The world owes quite as much to its thinkers as to its fighters. And Matthew Arnold's message to our own time is more important than most people believe. We

think too little nowadays of balance, symmetry and poise, which Arnold preached. There is hardly anything in our modern life and thought which we discount so much as repose and dignity.

"Not far from Fox Howe we may enter the charming valley of the Beathy, sacred to the memory of Charles Lloyd, who maintained here a center of hospitality for all of the distinguished literary folk of the region. To this place during Lloyd's happy days came night after night quaint Thomas DeQuincey, 'unhappy little opium eater with the quick meek soul', as Carlyle called him. He came to sit and talk with Lloyd sometimes till 1 o'clock in the morning, listening in the pauses of their talk to the river Beathy rolling over its rocky bed."

"Just above the Lloyds' was Beathy Hall, the home of the Hardens, also an intellectual center of this region. Here one afternoon in 1830 we might have met Southey and Coleridge and Christopher North, discussing with their hosts, a new volume of poems just published by a young Cambridge man named Alfred Tennyson."

Ruskin Unappreciative of Self.

"A few miles to the west of Windermere lies Lake Conistone. Brantwood, the beautiful home of John Ruskin, is situated on the shore of this lake. In some respects life seemed to him a failure. He had spent large fortunes to help the poor, but the poor were more numerous than ever. He had started various co-operative and socialistic schemes only to see them go to pieces without apparent beneficial results. And so, downcast and disappointed, Ruskin came to the peaceful lake district to spend the last part of his life. He did not realize how influential he had actually been in shifting the interest of thinkers from the problems of the individual life to those of the general life and in making the basis of that interest not charity but justice."

"We must pass on now to the real presiding genius of the lake region, William Wordsworth. Wordsworth was born at Cokermouth, on the other side of the district, on Derwent River between Keswick and the sea. When Wordsworth was 8 years old he was sent to Hawkshead to attend the little village school and to develop his calm and serene nature under the quiet influences of the lovely valley around Esthwaite Water."

The rest of Professor Tisdell's lecture hinged around Wordsworth. He compared him to Coleridge and Southey, both of whom lived near him. With his pictures and talk he took his audience on a trip through the whole district. He took it quite for granted that every one who heard him was already planning a similar trip for himself.

"Now When You Go There."

"Now, when you go there," he would say, "it is well to do a good deal of walking and not depend entirely on the coach in order thoroughly to appreciate the beauty of the country."

He ended with a description of Derwent Water, "rich in beauty scenic pictures, not the least of which is Friar's Craig."

"There," he said, "is perhaps the most beautiful spot in the lake region. There is a monument to Ruskin on this crag and on one side of it are his words, 'The first thing I remember as an event in life was being taken by my nurse to the brow of Friar's Crag on Derwent Water'. On the other side of the monument are words expressing the sentiment of both Wordsworth and Ruskin, which phrase the impression which most visitors take away from the place: 'The spirit of God is about you and in the air that you breathe.'"

ATHLETIC CARNIVAL MARCH 8

There Will Be Relay Races, Russian Dances and Class Exhibitions.

The annual athletic carnival date has been set for March 8. Four relay races will be run: the inter-sorority, the inter-fraternity, the inter-battalion and the inter-sport. A relay race between the boarding clubs in the school may be run.

Miss Austin's gymnasium classes will exhibit. The finals in the boxing and wrestling tournaments will be held.

The receipts of the carnival will go toward the fund for completing the fence around Rollins Field.

TWO ART NIGHTS THIS WEEK

Guild Will Give Music and Drama Programs.

The Art Lovers' Guild will meet twice this week. Tonight the Liszt program which was postponed from last week will be given. Prof. Basil Gauntlett, Kelley Alexander and Emil Koeppel will play. Prof. H. V. Stearns will have charge of the program, and will talk upon the life of Liszt. The program Thursday night will be Elizabethan drama.

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